



McLean Project for the Arts

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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MPAartfest  
connecting art and community

**MPA Announces MPAartfest 2019 Musical Lineup**  
*Expanded musical program returns October 6 with international roster of critically acclaimed artists, including Black Masala and Bumper Jacksons Duo*

McLean, VA: McLean Project for the Arts has released the musical line up and programming for **MPAartfest 2019, set for October 6, 2019 in McLean Central Park**. Featuring everything from gypsy jazz Django style to Appalachian bluegrass and a ska/funk/soul artist, the [MPAartfest Music Stage](#) promises performances for every age and musical interest.

**Djangolaya will kick off MPAartfest at 10:00 am.** Presenting a wide range of musical configurations, Djangolaya features Jeannine Greene on vocals and violin, Charlie Schueller on accordion, and Andrew Deshler on guitar. Together, they present a gypsy jazz, Django-style performance that really swings.



*Black Masala will perform at MPAartfest 2019*

Takoma Park-based fiddler, banjoist, singer and scholar **Jake Blount will perform at 11:00 am.** Blount centers and venerates his racial and ethnic heritage through his approach to music and its history. In 2019, he became the first Black person to make the finals in banjo at the prestigious Appalachian String Band Festival, taking first place with three tunes from Black banjoists. Jake will be performing with multi-instrumentalist and composer Clara Delfina at MPAartfest.

**Great Guitars take the stage at 12:00 noon,** featuring three generations of virtuoso jazz guitar. Together, Jan Knutson, Steve Herberman, and Steve Abshire showcase some of the finest guitar talent in the DC area.

**At 1:00 pm, Bumper Jacksons Duo** brings their roots jazz rhythms and country swing harmonies to the MPAartfest Music Stage. Bumper Jacksons' co-founders Jess Eliot Myhre and Chris Ousley lead with their signature sun-dappled vocal harmonies, and the multi-instrumentalists trade off on strings and horns, playing fresh originals and old-time favorites. Bumper Jacksons have been

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honored multiple times as the Mid-Atlantic's "Artist of the Year" and "Best Traditional Band" by the Washington Area Music Awards.

You want to have a good time? You need brass. **Washington DC-based outfit Black Masala hits the MPAartfest Music Stage at 2:00 pm.** Black Masala's Balkan, gypsy, klezmer sounds push the boundaries between genres and explore new musical frontiers. Come find out why *Live Music Daily* proclaimed "[Black Masala's] music must be experienced in person to fully understand this band and that is what makes them so much fun."

Often compared to Tina Turner, the high-energy **Caz Gardiner kicks off the three o'clock hour.** A 2019 Wammie nominee for Best Soul Artist/Group, Caz delivers a 60's-infused soul pop sound that is as diverse and driving as she is. Caz has recorded and performed throughout the U.S., South America and parts of Europe.

**Blues Alley Youth Jazz Orchestra will close out the MPAartfest Music Stage at 4:00 pm.** This award-winning, 15-piece youth swing big band is directed by Michael Bowie, musical accompanist to Sarah Vaughan, Abbey Lincoln, Patti Labelle, Isaac Hayes and others. Now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year, the Orchestra has performed at DC's leading venues.

The MPAartfest 2019 musical lineup was curated by **Ken Avis**, radio host of Antidote ([WERA 96.7 FM](http://www.wera96.7fm.com)) and a performing musician with the award-winning band Veronneau. Live sound provided by Frank Kayser.

**MPAartfest 2019 will take place on October 6, 2019 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm in McLean Central Park.** A one-day juried fine art show and sale, MPAartfest features the work of visual artists showcasing a wide variety of media and styles. During MPAartfest, McLean Central Park is transformed into a lively landscape of mini art galleries showcasing and offering for sale the work of acclaimed artists from the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond. In 2018, this annual celebration of the visual arts attracted approximately 9,000 – 10,000 visitors. Along with the artists' tents and live music, MPAartfest offers food from local restaurants and a variety of arts and STEAM (STEM+Art) activities to engage creative minds and captivate art-lovers of all ages. MPAartfest 2019 is presented by MPA with the support of Lead Community Sponsor McLean Community Center and event co-sponsor Fairfax County Park Authority.

MPAartfest admission is FREE, and all are welcome and encouraged to join. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Parking will be located at signed lots throughout McLean, with shuttle bus service to the park. More parking and Metro transit information is available on the MPA website. For more information visit [www.mpaart.org/](http://www.mpaart.org/) or call 703-790-1953.

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## About MPA

### MPA Exhibits, Educates and Inspires

McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) is one of the mid-Atlantic region's most respected contemporary visual arts organizations. MPA provides high-quality art exhibitions showcasing the work of established and emerging artists, educational programs, art classes, MPAartfest, summer art camps, and ArtReach, an award-winning program serving students in grades K – 12, seniors, and individuals with special needs. For more information, visit [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org).

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